This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Proposed Amendment) An extensible file access method for accessing a foreign file system from a data processing system with a native file system, said foreign file system and said native file system implementing different file system protocols, and wherein files created by the foreign file system may not be accessed using the native file system protocol, said file access method comprising:

issuing a request according to a native file system protocol to perform a file system operation with respect to ~~for data stored in~~ the foreign file system;

translating the native file system request to an intermediate programming interface, wherein the intermediate programming interface is different from both the native file system protocol and a foreign file system protocol, and wherein the intermediate programming interface comprises a set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol;

translating the intermediate programming interface ~~file system request~~ to ~~the~~ a file system request according to the foreign file system protocol; ~~and~~

using the translated file system request according to the foreign file system protocol to perform the requested file system operation with respect to the foreign file system; and

returning to the data processing system a response from the foreign file system responsive to the translated request in the foreign file system protocol.

2.   (Previously Presented) The file access method of claim 1 wherein the file access method is extended to support a second foreign file system by providing a translation from the intermediate programming interface to the second foreign file system protocol, said method further comprising:

determining the foreign file system protocol.

3.   (Previously Presented) The file access method of claim 1 wherein the file access method is extended to support a second native file system by providing a translation from the second native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface, said method further comprising:

determining the native file system protocol.

4.   (Currently Amended) The file access method of claim 1, wherein the intermediate programming interface ~~comprises a set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol and~~ further comprises a set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols.

5.   (Original) The file access method of claim 4 wherein set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol are translated from the native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then translated to the foreign file system protocol, and wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols are not translated from the native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then translated to the foreign file system protocol.

6.   (Original) The file access method of claim 5 wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended native file system functions which have no equivalent function in the foreign file system protocol.

7. (Original) The file access method of claim 6 wherein the set of extended native file system functions causes a predetermined response to be sent to the data processing system.

8. (Original)   The file access method of claim 5 wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended

foreign file system functions which have no equivalent function in the native file system protocol.

9. (Original)   The file access method of claim 8 wherein the set of extended foreign file system functions are passed through to the foreign file system in an untranslated form.

10. (Previously Presented)   An article of manufacture for use in a computer system for providing an extensible file access method for accessing a foreign file system from a data processing system with a native file system, said foreign file system and said native file system implementing different file system protocols, and wherein files created by the foreign file system may not be accessed using the native file system protocol, said article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium having a computer program embodied in said medium which causes the computer system to execute the access method comprising:

issuing a request according to a native file system protocol to perform a file system operation with respect to ~~for data stored~~ in the foreign file system;

translating the native file system request to an intermediate programming interface, wherein the intermediate programming interface is different from both the native file system protocol and a foreign file system protocol, and wherein the intermediate programming interface comprises a set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol;

translating the intermediate programming interface ~~file system request~~ to ~~the~~ a file system request according to the foreign file system protocol; ~~and~~

using the translated file system request according to the foreign file system protocol to perform the requested file system operation with respect to the foreign file system; and

returning to the data processing system a response from the foreign file system responsive to the translated request in the foreign file system protocol.

11. (Previously Presented)   The article of manufacture of claim 10 wherein the file access method is extended to support a second foreign file system by providing a translation from

the intermediate programming interface to the second foreign file system protocol, said method further comprising:

determining the foreign file system protocol.

12. (Previously Presented)   The article of manufacture of claim 10 wherein the file access method is extended to support a second native file system by providing a translation from the second native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface, said method further comprising:

determining the native file system protocol.

13. (Currently Amended)   The article of manufacture of claim 10 wherein the intermediate programming interface ~~comprises a set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol and~~ further comprises a set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols.

14. (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol are translated from the native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then translated to the foreign file system protocol, and wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols are not translated from the native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then translated to the foreign file system protocol.

15. (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended native file system functions which have no equivalent function in the foreign file system protocol.

16. (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 15 wherein the set of extended native file system functions causes a predetermined response to be sent to the data processing system.

17. (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended foreign file system functions which have no equivalent function in the native file system protocol.

18. (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein the set of extended foreign file system functions are passed through to the foreign file system in an untranslated form.

19. (Currently Amended)   An extensible file access system for accessing a foreign file system from a data processing system with a native file system, said foreign file system and said native file system implementing different file system protocols, and wherein files created by the foreign file system may not be accessed using the native file system protocol, said file access system comprising:

 a request issued according to a native file system protocol to perform a file system operation with respect to for data stored in the foreign file system;

 a translator for translating the native file system request to an intermediate programming interface, wherein the intermediate programming interface is different from both the native file system protocol and a foreign file system protocol, and wherein the intermediate programming interface comprises a set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol;

 a translator for translating the intermediate programming interface file system request to the a file system request according to the foreign file system protocol; and

 using the translated file system request according to the foreign file system protocol to perform the requested file system operation with respect to the foreign file system; and

a response returned to the data processing system from the foreign file system responsive to the translated request <u>in the foreign file system protocol</u>.

20. (Original)   The file access system of claim 19 wherein the file access system is extended to support a second foreign file system by providing a translator for translation from the intermediate programming interface to the second foreign file system protocol.

21. (Original)   The file access system of claim 19 wherein the file access system is extended to support a second native file system by providing a translator for translation from the second native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface.

22. (Currently Amended)   The file access system of claim 19 wherein the intermediate programming interface ~~comprises a set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol and~~ <u>further</u> comprises a set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols.

23. (Original)   The file access system of claim 22 wherein set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol are translated from the native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then translated to the foreign file system protocol, and wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols are not translated from the native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then translated to the foreign file system protocol.

24. (Original)   The file access system of claim 23 wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended native file system functions which have no equivalent function in the foreign file system protocol.

25. (Original)   The file access system of claim 24 wherein the set of extended native file system functions causes a predetermined response to be sent to the data processing system.

26. (Original)   The file access system of claim 23 wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended foreign file system functions which have no equivalent function in the native file system protocol.

27. (Original)   The file access system of claim 26 wherein the set of extended foreign file system functions are passed through to the foreign file system in an untranslated form.

28.   (New) The file access method of claim 1, wherein the request to perform the file system operation with respect to the foreign file system comprises a request to create or delete a directory in the foreign file system.

29.   (New) The file access method of claim 1, wherein request to perform the file system operation with respect to the foreign file system comprises a request to delete a file in the foreign file system.

30.   (New) The file access method of claim 1, wherein request to perform the file system operation with respect to the foreign file system comprises a request to rename a file in the foreign file system.

31.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the request to perform the file system operation with respect to the foreign file system comprises a request to create or delete a directory in the foreign file system.

32.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein request to perform the file system operation with respect to the foreign file system comprises a request to delete a file in the foreign file system.

33.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein request to perform the file system operation with respect to the foreign file system comprises a request to rename a file in the foreign file system.

34.   (New) The file access system of claim 19, wherein the request to perform the file system operation with respect to the foreign file system comprises a request to create or delete a directory in the foreign file system.

35.   (New) The file access system of claim 19, wherein request to perform the file system operation with respect to the foreign file system comprises a request to delete a file in the foreign file system.

36.   (New) The file access system of claim 19, wherein request to perform the file system operation with respect to the foreign file system comprises a request to rename a file in the foreign file system.